

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 208757
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 COME-00
TRSE-00 SEC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 STR-04 /048 R

DRAFTED BY EB/IFD/BP:TASCHLENKER

APPROVED BY EB/IFD/BP:HJWINTER

JUSTICE:JDAVIDOW

EA/J:HCOCHRAN

EUR/NE:CSCHALLER

L/EB:SBENSON

-----012957 011245Z /50

R 312147Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 208757

USOECN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BE, JA, US

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF BROWNING
COMPANY

1. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT
THAT QUOTE IT IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE PROPOSED
ACQUISITION OF BROWNING COMPANY, MORGAN, UTAH, BY
FABRIQUE NATIONALE HERSTALE S.A., HERSTAL-LEZ-LEIGE,
BELGIUM, (F.N.) AND MIROKU FIREARMS COMPANY, KOCHI,
JAPAN (MIROKU) TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE ACQUISITION
IS IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 7 OF THE CLAYTON ACT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 208757

2. BROWNING IS A MAJOR U.S. MANUFACTURER AND SELLER OF
SPORTING ARMS, AND F.N. AND MIROKU ARE TWO OF ITS
PRIMARY SUPPLIERS. BOTH OF THE ACQUIRING COMPANIES
MANUFACTURE GUNS FOR BROWNING UNDER THE BROWNING LABEL.
THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION IS TO DETERMINE, FIRST
WHETHER F.N. AND MIROKU ARE PRESENTLY ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL
COMPETITORS OF BROWNING IN THE MARKET FOR BROWNING'S

PRODUCTS AND, SECOND, WHETHER THE PROBABLY PRECLUSION OF OTHER MANUFACTURERS AS SUPPLIERS OF BROWNING GUNS WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON COMPETITION.

3. QUOTE DOJ'S INQUIRY HAS BEEN SENT ONLY TO BROWNING, ALTHOUGH INQUIRIES MAY BE SENT TO THE ACQUIRING COMPANIES AT A LATER DATE. THE INQUIRY REQUESTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A LISTING OF THE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED AND/OR SOLD BY THE THREE COMPANIES, ANNUAL SALES OF EACH PRODUCT FOR THE YEARS 1974 TO THE PRESENT, AND A DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT MARKET STRUCTURES, BOTH WORLD-WIDE AND IN THE UNITED STATES, IN THE AFFECTED PRODUCTS. UNQUOTE

4. DOJ HAS AGREED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT WHEN AND IF ANY INQUIRIES ARE SENT TO THE FOREIGN ACQUIRING COMPANIES.

5. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1967 OECD RECOMMENDATION. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ACQUISITION, ANTITRUST
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE208757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TASCHLENKER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770316-0790
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977082/aaaaaayz.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6e05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1471595
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTITRUST: PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF BROWNING COMPANY
TAGS: ETRD, BE, JA, US, BROWNING COMPANY, MIROKU FIREARMS COMPANY
To: BRUSSELS TOKYO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6e05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009